

The SOUTHEAST NEWS

OF, BY AND FOR CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTIAN CHURCHES

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Pilgrim Fellowship Car Wash

(Story on Page 3)

SOCIETY IN AN ATOMIC AGE

by Alford Carleton

(Excerpts from an address made at DeKoven, Wisconsin as transcribed by Montez Albright. Dr. Carleton is executive vice-president of the American Board of Foreign Missions.)

The measure of a man is to be found by what he is up against, as much as by what he is. It is the same with the Christian church. We are faced by four problems-- four great perils which are different phases of one basic problem-- the problem of how to live together and therefore live in the modern world. The great problem is not war, but whether we have the skill, faith, cooperative ability, and mental capacity to live together as members of the human race. Peace is the result, not the cause, of cooperative living.

The situation of modern society is "a world of revolution", and the four over-all problems of mankind, all inter-related, are first, war-- man's collective folly. Yet by a process of choosing the lesser of two evils, we have to go on preparing for a war which we can only "win" in the comparative hope of enduring less damage and suffering than we may inflict. We are all conscious of the possibility of physical and pathological mutilation-- the possibility of annihilation of the human race. It is most vividly before us-- everyone can see what modern war can do to us and to others.

The cave man knew fear-- but he only had to fear an enemy near enough to throw a stone. We have to fear men on the other side of the world. At least atomic weapons are still in the hands of educated men, but this might not always be so.

The second problem is the population explosion. We have made marvelous strides in prolonging the life expectancy of mankind. Six cents per person will control malaria by DDT. Thirty cents per person will provide antibiotics to eliminate many diseases. The population of Ceylon will double in the next 20 years, and there just isn't room. Egypt has 1,200 people on every square mile. (As a comparison, imagine every person in the United States crowded into two states-- Illinois and Indiana!) Half of the population is 19 years of age or less. We want people to live, but we don't know what to do with the increase in population.

One interesting development has been that there used to be an automatic control-- as the standard of living increased, the number of children decreased. Now, as the standard of living increases, the number of children increase also. Birth control may help to space the birth of children, but it also seems to increase the number of living children.

Limited natural resources is the third world problem. The limitation of food supply, water supply, and other natural resources, along with population increase, create pressures which may make war, at least on local levels, almost inevitable. Experts in conservation cannot answer this problem. We will all have to work together if the resources of this world are to support the population. It is quite possible that every acre could support nine people, or even twenty-five. The basic problems

of the world are social-- two men could not live on one acre if they feared each other. (See Koon's **The Story of Mankind**.) Fundamentally the question is whether or not we have the patience, the skill, the cooperation to live together.

The central problem of mankind is not these three-- war, increasing population, and limited resources-- but is the fourth problem: **learning to live together.** In the "nervous breakdown of society"-- a world of frustration which can lead to social anarchy-- in a world upside down, the problem is that we have not furnished a new ethic for living. We have broken old ties without establishing new ones.

The Christian Church shares in these problems. We did not make them, but we must share in the responsibility for them. Sectarian division is a problem for the missionaries, so that Christians in other countries served by the missionaries sent out by the various denominations must ask themselves "What kind of Christian?" "Which church is Christian?" As Mark Twain said, "Five churches on one village green. How we love the Lord; but how we hate each other!" So the Christian Church faces these problems: (1) minority status (in all but two Asian countries Christians are in a minority), (2) Sectarian division, (3) How to separate religion from culture (the Asian Christians feel they are satellites to the Western "white man's church". Nations of the East are developing a missionary movement of their own-- inter-changing ideas and workers.) Christianity must be made relevant in terms of native culture, not Western culture. (4) Relative poverty (compared to Christians here, they are very poor, and their giving is truly sacrificial. In Angola, to \$3,000,000 from the U. S. was added \$17,000,000 from the native Christians. Their per capita income is \$40 per year!)

Typical Areas of Problems

Japan-- rapidly rising population is limited in the amount of land, sharply circumscribed area of trade, and standard of living is rapidly falling. We will not allow them to trade with China. Christians are a small percentage of the population. We have forced them into an untenable position with unbearable problems. Something drastic is going to happen in Japan-- they are not going to lie down and take this. The Japanese missed the boat at the turn of the 20th Century. If they had been a little more patient and not started a war with China, Japan would have been the political and economic capitol of all Asia.

South Africa-- (see Chester Bowles article in **Colliers**) "Americans will need to learn that Asia is so big it can never be conquered or ruled by the white race." They have a race issue complicated by not two but four or five groups. Unless one has lived in the atmosphere of political tension, one cannot realize what it is. It is like living with a tornado-- a constant sense of potential violence. The basic problem in South Africa seems insoluble.

Georgia Family Camp

The annual summer camp of the Georgia churches will be held August 14-20 at Waycross, Ga., with the Rev. Annie R. Campbell as acting dean. Due to the change in date, most of the staff was unable to participate, but after many difficulties Miss Campbell has assembled a good teaching staff.

Dr. A. R. Van Cleave will serve as Chaplain and other staff members are the Rev. James Hess, missionary speaker and teacher, Mrs. Galdys Watson, the Rev. George Chambers, the Rev. Carl Dollar, the Rev. W. C. Carpenter, the Rev. Henry C. Weaver. Dr. Van Cleave will also teach an adult course. Student Summer Service workers will conduct the vacation Bible school each morning, and Miss Campbell will teach a credit course for leaders of young people.

On Thursday and Friday, Aug. 18-19, the Women's Fellowship will hold its annual retreat at the camp, with presentation of program material for the coming year. Mrs. Frank Gordon will give a book review on the mission study book, and the Rev. Hess will speak on India.

On Monday evening, Aug. 15, the South Georgia Lay Ministers Association will meet at the camp with the Rev. Ashley Hobbs presiding. A panel discussion will be held on "The Layman and His Church".

In Johannesburg there are 2,000,000 people. 1,000,000 are transient workers in the mines-- illiterate migrants. There are 2,300 registered sects of Christians in Africa. Christianity is ecumenical in the city, but in the rural sections it is not. This is creating the problem of the rural and urban church in South Africa. There is not only the division in color, but between enormous wealth and poverty. The workers in mines earn about \$15 per year-- turning out wealth for others!

Palestine-- The situation has leveled off at a stalemate. It has been able to divide itself from its neighbors, but the ideal of accomplishing self-support has not been reached. This is not a satisfactory position, and there is no prospect of working out of it in the next two decades. The Arabs are also at a stalemate. They were not able to prevent it, and are unable to forget it and live with it or leave it alone. Both groups have standing armies. Incidents are unavoidable; there is still fear and hate and disappointment. There is probably more potential explosive buried under the soil of the Near East than has been there since the Crusades.

India-- has found freedom. They are teaching skills and technological advances. But they are struggling against colonial imperialism while imposing this on others. (In the Fiji Islands.)

The future of the world belongs to the masses of Asia and Africa. The kind of Christian Church that may exist today and tomorrow in Africa may be of vital importance to the world in the years to come. Mankind in general and the Christian Church in particular faces responsibilities and problems that demand urgently the mustering of our resources, skills, devotion, wisdom-- under the power and guidance of God.

Ministers At School



The Rev. Arnold Slater, Mrs. Slater and the Rev. J. Scott Morris, Jr., were among some 50 pastors and their wives attending the 1955 Eastern Summer School for Ministers in Hillsboro, N. H., held under the auspices of the Board of Home Missions of the Congregational Christian Churches.

Shown in the picture above are Rev. and Mrs. Slater with Dr. Alford Carleton, executive vice-president of the American Board. The Rev. Slater is pastor of Pilgrim Church in Chattanooga. The Rev. Scott Morris is pastor of the North Georgia Parish.

Both ministers reported an inspirational and informative three weeks at the school. They especially enjoyed the following courses: "Christology-- New Testament" by Dr. Paul Schubert of Yale Divinity School; "New Testament Preaching and Life Today" by Dr. George Gibson of McCormick Theological Seminary; and "Contemporary Trends in Theology" by Dr. Roger Shinn of Vanderbilt School of Theology.

Dr. Howard Spragg, assistant to Dr. Truman Douglass, served as dean of the school.

The Slaters toured New England and the coast of Maine before returning to Chattanooga.

Pilgrim Fellowship Car Wash

Carey Brown and Joan Davis, members of the PF of Pilgrim Congregational Church of Chattanooga, are shown demonstrating the technique of car washing used by fellowship members, July 16, at the church parking lot. Cars left at the lot were washed for \$1 and parked for the rest of the day. Profits were sent to Robbins parish for its young people's recreation program. Counselors for the fellowship are Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Gregg.

Members of the group who did the washing were Bettye Long, Bill Kampmeier, Nathan Baubach, Ann Kampmeier, Muriel Mooney, Mary Stinecipher, Doug Henley, Joan Davis, Carey Brown, Helen Hodge, Barbara Nolling, Jim Marsh, Fran Mooney, Geraldine Poe, Margaret Jones, Frank Stinecipher, Virginia Blanks, Pat Stinecipher and Dee Dee Drosten.

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To Church Reporters—

Please send in your news by the 20th of each month, and it will appear in the following month's issue of SOUTHEAST NEWS.

Loretta Petersen in Japan

Lt. Loretta Petersen, formerly on the staff of the Southeast Convention as Director of Christian Education, has been stationed in Japan since March 15. She is now a nurse in the Air Corps of the United States, but expects to be discharged and back home in Alabama sometime in October. Excerpts from a recent letter follow:

"I'm flying all the time now - have covered the entire Far East . . . all over Japan, Korea, Okinawa and Formosa. Very interesting work but I'll be glad to be home. In July my room-mate and I had an opportunity to fly to Hong Kong for a week with the Marines, coming by way of Okinawa and Iainan, Formosa. It was a wonderful trip. We've been sight-seeing and buying clothes. Some of the sights are breathless . . . some are heart-breaking. The crowded, teeming millions of people crawling in all those "junk" or "sampan" with dogs, chickens . . . smelly fish . . . it was almost too much for me. I just can't stand to see suffering, hungry children. In Hong Kong we ate on a "floating" restaurant, but I could look out and see little hands reaching up and could not eat. I couldn't enjoy seeing the luxurious homes and useless but expensive gardens . . . for on the fringe of these beautiful places are starving thousands! People sleeping on the streets (they have no homes), tiny children carrying still smaller children on their backs . . . We are so fortunate. I never fully realized how fortunate until now. Hong Kong is even worse than Japan, and I had thought that nothing could be any worse than some of the sights I saw in Japan.

My greetings to everyone, and I'll see you in October."

Loretta Petersen

Isolation Impoverishes People

"For as we have many members in one body, and all members have not the same office: so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another." Romans 12:4, 5. This is written with specific reference to Christians, but it applies to the entire human family.

This principle has a strong social application. To disregard it is to court dire consequences. The touchy individual who separates himself from other people generally does so because there is something wrong in his personal relationship. The fact that he has cut himself off from his former associates lessens the possibility of righting real or fancied wrongs. He has created within himself enmity which may lead to strife.

If one is seeking evidence of the fact that isolation impoverishes people, it can be found in the realm of the spiritual. It sometimes happens that church members disagree with other members, or dislike the program and policies of the church. Not infrequently a disaffected church member stays away from the worship services of the church and avoids other members. He does not grow in spirit. He becomes lean of soul and his spirit is embittered. Thus he comes to spiritual poverty.

Churches are members one of another, whether they know it or not. If right relations exist between churches, when one church prospers other churches prosper with it. Most community churches have found that their church life is not satisfying and complete until they have established fellowship with a larger communion. Churches are planted "one to a hill" but they do not thrive if the hills are too far apart. The list of churches which have died when they severed relationships with the denomination of which they had been a part is a long one. Isolation impoverishes people.

Many Congregational Christian churches very greatly fear that something exceeding terrible will happen to them if the pending merger with the Evangelical and Reformed Church is ever consummated. We know some people who are certain that it has already happened. If evidence is desired, see the material which has been put out by the Committee for the Continuation of Congregational Christian Churches.

There were a few individuals and churches in the Christian Church who viewed with dire apprehension the merger with the Congregational Churches when it was under consideration. Their fears were without foundation. Those of the former Christian Church who have been most active in the work of the Congregational Christian Churches do not hesitate to declare that our fellowship has been spiritually enriched and blessed in a measure which is beyond our ability to evaluate. And, in so far as we are able to determine, the Congregational Churches have not been materially hampered by the union. Christian cooperation and Christian fellowship bring believers closer to the Christ.

(reprinted from **The Christian Sun**, Southern Convention magazine.)

THE SUPERINTENDENT'S PAGE

Rev. E. M. Butterfield

The Second Mile

"Our Day of Decision" marked the first big forward step toward complete autonomy and self-support in the Southeast Convention. We made a glorious record with most of the churches meeting their goals for Our Christian World Mission and we have been able to make steady progress during the past year.

Now we are approaching our second **Every Church Canvass**—the time for the next big advance toward financial independence. Your Committee on Evangelism, Stewardship and Missionary Education meets on August 16 to draft final plans for our "Second Mile" canvass and before long every church clerk and minister will receive letters giving all the details.

Just as in a race, the farther we go the harder we must work to keep up the pace. But if we keep running we'll know the joy of reaching the goal. And we'll be mighty proud we made it, and so will all our sister churches around the country.

Our goal for this "Second Mile" is \$30,000, or \$10,000 more than last year. Does that scare you? No, for all we've got to do is exert a little more energy and we can reach the goal with only a little "puffing".

Let's remember that for too long we were content to lag behind, and now we've got to run faster to catch up. And lest we get panicky when faced with a \$30,000 goal, let's remember a few other facts:

1. We need reach an average giving to Our Christian World Mission of only 10c per member per week to be completely independent of the Home Board. Scarcely any member of any church could honestly argue that 10c a week is "too much". Can you? And if there may be some who conscientiously cannot afford it, certainly there are many others who are well able to give much more and so keep up the average.

2. A second fact that will make the second mile easier is that now most of our churches are completing payments on their Church Building Fund pledges and can transfer the amount of such payments to Our Christian World Mission with little or no effort.

3. A third fact we must honestly face as we get our second wind for this second mile is that we spend so much upon ourselves for so many non-essentials, that to keep a true sense of values and our spiritual equilibriums we must begin to spend more for others. A selfish life is not a Christian life, and we must follow our words with our deeds. (See Mark 10:17-22.)

Regular, planned, sacrificial giving to the work of God's Kingdom is as necessary to the health of the spirit as are three regular, planned, wholesome meals a day to the health of the body!

One of the great errors of modern churchmanship, and a snare into which we have fallen, is the "cheapening" of church membership. We have tried to cater to the whims of people by not talking about such touchy subjects as "sin" or "tith-

ing" or "pledging". We have tried to emphasize how easy it is to be a church member. As a result we have far too many churches content to do little more than to provide times for some nice people to get together.

That sounds hard, I know, but how long has it been since our faith was tried by 'dungeon, fire and sword'? How much has our religion demanded of us? Only as we put more and more of our time, talent, effort and money into the work of the Church, will our religion become a true force within our lives and our lives become channels through which the power of God can work within the world!

So this "second mile" becomes more than a challenge or a race to be won; it becomes a divine obligation to the development of better people, better churches, and a better world—"more like unto the Kingdom".

—Erston M. Butterfield

Douglas Day - August 14

Plans have been completed for the first presentation service of the Church Builders Club which is to be made to the Douglas Church on August 14 at a meeting held in the First Methodist Church of Douglas.

At the time this magazine goes to press, the goal of 1,000 members has not been reached, and some members have not paid their first pledge. However, with efforts being made convention-wide by club members and pastors, it is hoped that the goal will have been reached by the date of the first presentation.

Members of the Douglas Church announced plans for a barbeque dinner to be served on the church property at 1308 North Madison Avenue from 11:30 a. m. until 2:30 p. m.

The service at the Methodist Church was planned for 2:30 p. m., a portion of it to be broadcast (or taped for re-broadcast) during the service. Those participating in the service were announced as follows: the Rev. McCoy Johnson, pastor of the First Methodist Church, the welcome address; Mrs. Lloyd Vickers, church clerk of Douglas, a summary of the development of the Douglas Church; the Rev. Henry C. Weaver, president of CBC; the Rev. W. C. Carpenter, secretary-treasurer of CBC, a report; and the Rev. Erston M. Butterfield, superintendent of the Southeast Convention, an address on the significance of the Church Builders Club.

A business meeting of the Church Builders Club officers and members was announced, to be held immediately following the presentation service. This concerns plans for the future of the Church Builders Club, election of officers and other business, and other matters considered at the annual business meeting.

The Church Builders Club was organized on August 30, 1953 and a constitution adopted. It grew out of the Gideon Club of Church Builders begun in South Georgia. It is a voluntary, grass-

Church News

Training Classes for 19 candidates for Church membership were held by the Rev. Joe French, pastor of the **Lanett Church**, in preparation for Church Membership Day on Aug. 7. A Baptismal service was held on the evening of Aug. 14.

The Pilgrim Fellowship has recently enjoyed two most informative programs. Terrell Dobson showed slides he had made depicting life in Korea and Miss Anna Carol Kingdon spoke on her work travels and impressions of life in India. Miss Kingdon also spoke and showed slides at the evening worship service on July 17. She was accompanied and introduced by the Rev. Annie Campbell.

Officers elected for the Missionary Auxiliary at the late June meeting were: Mrs. Frank Hatcher, president; Mrs. Arthur Dailey, vice-president; Mrs. Fred Lashley, program chairman; Mrs. Frank Moon, Secretary; Mrs. Charles Fetner, treasurer; Miss Kate Hill, social chairman; Mrs. I. D. Hill, Friendly Service chairman; and Mrs. Lena Stephens, Key Woman.

Circle Leaders elected were: Mrs. Ruth Smith, Mrs. Lee Thompson, Mrs. Arthur Patterson, Mrs. Charlie Miller, Mrs. Reid Kent, Mrs. M. L. Redden, Mrs. Vester Dobson and Mrs. Willie McGill.

A total of \$263.50 was turned in at the meeting to be used on the organ fund. A fine report was made by the Esther Circle of Jr. High girls, who organized a few months ago. Their circle contributed \$100 of the total given.

Attending the Jr. Hi Conference at Southern Union were Sara Daniel, Charlotte Humphrey, Mike Shover, Melvin Roquemore, Phil Harry and Buddy Collier.

Women attending the Retreat were Mrs. Chalie Miller, Mrs. Lillie Hall, Mrs. M. L. Redden, Mrs. J. I. Thompson, Mrs. Lena Stephens, Mrs. A. D. Harry, Mrs. Lee Thompson, Mrs. Frank Hatcher, Mrs. Frank Moon, Mrs. Fred Lashley, Mrs. Cooper Cannon, Mrs. Bobby McClure, Mrs. Joe French and Mrs. Fred Lashley.

Carolyn French and Linda Looser were delegates to the Senior Hi Conference at Wadley.

Mrs. A. D. Harry, reporter

* * *

Chipley Oak Grove Church held its annual home-coming on July 17 with approximately 300 people in attendance. A special offer for remodeling the church was received, amounting to \$273.00. The following week the Rev. David W. Clark of Lowell Church, Roanoke, Ala., conducted the evangelism meeting, which was well attended and very successful.

Miss Margie McGuire and Billy Paul Moore were married on July 9th, and are now living in Atlanta where Mr. Moore is employed by the General Motors Chevrolet plant.

We are making progress in our remodeling pro-

roots movement and its purpose is to help build Congregational Christian Churches in the Southeast.

The plan is to develop a membership of 1,000 or more who will pledge \$5 for each new church, making available a \$5,000 grant for a new church.

gram, with new pews with cushions, floors sanded, and a new cemetery fence.

The pastor, the Rev. Henry C. Weaver, visited his new granddaughter in Corpus Christi, Texas, the last week in July. The mother is the former Miss Patsy Jane Weaver, now Mrs. P. E. Jacobs and their new daughter has been named Dean Alice.

Our Vacation Bible School was conducted by Miss Sally Higginbotham, July 30 - Aug. 6 with good attendance.

* * *

Williams Chapel Church is now using all the parsonage for Sunday School rooms, pastor's study, and nursery. The Men's Bible Class, the Effie Mae Class and the Junior Class of Boys and girls hold classes there, overflowing from the church S. S. rooms.

The young matrons of our church recently organized Group 2 of the Women's Fellowship with meetings twice each month. The young girls of high school age were invited to join this group. They were very enthusiastic and are already busy on different projects. Mr. and Mrs. Bill Harper were surprised with a house-warming on July 8. They have made new curtains for the choir rail and new draperies for the Effie Mae S. S. class room. The group is now planning an ice cream supper.

Our quarterly conference convened on the evening of July 11, and announcement was made that our building fund is still growing.

Mr. and Mrs. N. A. Long, Jr., Charlie Griffin, Marie Griffin and Jeannette Sweat attended the Sunday School Workers Council at Vanceville last month.

The Pilgrim Fellowship is working hard for larger attendance at meetings and is planning a hamburger fry at Laura Walker Park next week. Mrs. Lester Shaw is counsellor for the young people.

Group 1 of the Women's Fellowship is doing a great deal of sewing-- making quilts, spreads, pillow shams and rugs to sell, with proceeds going to the building fund. They also sent a banquet table cloth, napkins and bedside rugs to a school in Texas.

The Laymen's Fellowship is still growing. They will have a supper meeting in August.

—Mrs. C. H. Griffin, reporter

* * *

The **Federated Church of Demorest** had a good vacation Bible School in June under the direction of Miss Evie Gillespie and Mrs. James E. Walter. Children of other denominations attended also and 59 diplomas were given. The following week a report was given at our Fellowship Supper and the articles and pictures made by the children were on display—an interesting collection.

On July 10 our pastor, the Rev. George Chambers, was married to Miss Jeweldine Childs of Midleton, Ga. While they were away, the members of the church painted some rooms in the parsonage, hung new curtains and made other improvements. On their return a reception was held to welcome our pastor's wife.

Attendance at our church services is especially good this summer, partly due to the pupils of the summer school at the college.

—Mrs. E. W. Butler, reporter

Women's Retreat

Mrs. A. D. Harry of Lanett, Ala., was elected president of the Alabama-Northwest Florida Women's Fellowship at the annual retreat at Southern Union College in Wadley, Ala., held July 20-21.

Mrs. Harry is well qualified for this position, having worked in Women's Fellowship for many years. She has served as president of her local society and is now president of the PTA and United Council of Church Women of Lanett.

The newly-elected president is the wife of A. D. Harry, a jeweler at West Point, Ga., and the Harrys are parents of four children-- Phil, Steve, Pacita, and William. The family is very active in the work and program of the Lanett Church.

Other officers elected to serve with Mrs. Harry are: Mrs. Raymond Berry of Andalusia, vice-president; Mrs. Harry W. Barr of Phenix City, secretary; Miss Dora Brackin of Headland, treasurer; and Mrs. Arthur Wallace of Andalusia, Friendly Service Chairman.

Miss Annie R. Campbell, Minister of Christian Education for the Southeast Convention, conducted the installation service for new officers, as a climax to the two-day meeting at which all program material was presented. Various churches presented, demonstrated and dramatized each program in the program booklet.

Other high-lights of the retreat were the banquet program with the theme "American Indians"; and picture slides on India presented by Miss Anna Carol Kingdon.

The women chose for their project for the coming year the kitchen at Southern Union College.

Pilgrim Fellowship

The Kentucky-Tennessee PF met June 10 at Camp Pomona, Tenn., with Pat Repass, vice-president, presiding. Fifty-four PFers were pres-



Mrs. John Fralic, retiring president, dressed for the American Indian banquet. Place cards were Indian tepees. The film "Song of the Shining Mountain" was shown.



Newly elected officers of the Alabama Women's Fellowship: Miss Dora Brackin, Mrs. Raymond Berry, Mrs. A. D. Harry, Mrs. Harry Barr and Mrs. Arthur Wallace.

ent, with Rev. Collie Seymour, Rev. Annie Campbell and Rev. Hugh Lasseter as adult advisors.

A date was set for our youth rally, which is to be the last week-end in October at Evarts, Ky.

The following goals were presented by the goals committee and accepted by the group:

1. Each PF shall have a budget which shall include: a) 25c per member to the Southeast Convention PF, b) 25c per member of Kentucky-Tennessee PF, and c) 10% (working toward 50%) of the total budget to missions.

2. Each PF should have at least five meetings a year on missions with emphasis on home missions, American Indians, our Foreign Missions, Our Christian World Mission in a Revolutionary World.

3. Try to meet with another PF group for at least one meeting. If this is not possible, meet with a young people's group of another denomination.

4. All PFs observe Youth Week and Work Day for Christ, the money from the latter going to OCFM. Work Day for Christ is October 27.

5. Organize a PF in every church and base it on the three commissions.

6. Each PF conduct a religious census of some type to try to increase membership and reach the unreached.

7. Hold at least one youth rally a year.

8. Strive for attendance of PF delegates at Southeast Convention and Kentucky-Tennessee rally.

9. All PFs organize a campaign to obtain subscriptions to the **Southeast News**, getting at least one subscription per family.

10. Encourage every PF reporter to turn in news for the **Southeast News** to Bettye Cunningham, Pleasant Hill, Tenn., not later than the 15th of each month.

After the 1954 goals were read, each PF reported what they had done toward meeting these goals.

Chattanooga PF Officers

At a recent meeting of the Chattanooga PF, the following officers were elected: Cary Brown, president; Doug Henley, vice-president; Virginia Blanks, secretary; Deedee Dresten, treasurer; and Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Greggs, adult advisors.

—Bettye Cunningham, reporter

673 Piedmont Avenue, N. E.
Atlanta, Georgia

Using Drama in the Christian Ministry

by Frances Charrier

"What will you do when you finish seminary next year?" I don't know how many times I've been asked that question. And as many times as I've been asked it, I have tried to explain how I hope to combine my training for the Christian ministry with my interest in drama.

The use of drama in the church is by no means new. The oldest plays in existence in the English language are those performed in the church over a thousand years ago. The simple dramatizations of biblical stories were a familiar element of worship as early as the year 800 A. D. Later, these simple plays were developed into splendid pageants and were based not only on the Bible, but also on the lives of saints, and the way of the Christian life.

Unfortunately, the quality of these early plays got worse as their popularity increased until they had fallen into such disrepute that all drama was banned in England in the seventeenth century. When the theaters were reopened about a hundred years later, drama had such a bad reputation that churches forbade their members to attend. Gradually, people realized that some drama was good and it became possible to attend the theatre without getting a bad name. But, in our own country, the religious code was so strict that all forms of drama were frowned upon. Even today there are still people who consider theatrical entertainment sinful, and do not see its tremendous potential for helping us to understand our fellow man.

Because of this old-fashioned attitude toward the theatre, drama has been a long time returning to the church. But it has now come to be looked upon as an exciting instrument that can be used in both the education and the worship of the church.

Nearly everyone is familiar with the short skits which have been widely used to teach lessons in church school and youth programs. The value of such skits is extremely limited. Most of them do not have enough dramatic content to retain the interest of lively youngsters or discerning adults.

At the other extreme of contemporary church drama are the exquisitely constructed poetic dramas of such writers as Christopher Fry, T. S. Eliot, and W. H. Auden. Some of these works are so involved in their imagery and development as to be obscure to the average reader or observer. They are a fine step toward bringing the drama back to its early role of adding dignity and splendor to the worship of the church; but they fail as a universal method of expression because, in their elusive beauty, they are almost too well written.

There is a great need today for material that comes between the too simple skit that lacks dramatic intensity, and the great verse dramas that fail to communicate in their complexity. It is in this area that I hope to be able to do part of my work-- not only to write myself, but also to encourage others to make contributions to meet this need.

Besides the written drama that can be used both for education and for worship, impromptu drama can also provide help in teaching. Children always remember what they have enacted themselves better than what they have only been told. Bible stories and problems of Christian living can easily be acted without advance preparation. Guidance in the use of this method is another field in which I hope to work.

Finally, young people, from junior high age on up, can be helped to write their own plays; and perhaps some of my time will be spent in outlining approaches to this form of expression.

The inevitable follow-up to my answer that I want to work as a minister of Christian drama, is, "Where will you find a job?" There are three possibilities in this newly revived field. Some large churches have ventured to hire full-time ministers of drama; national boards of Christian education are beginning to experiment with drama; and city councils of churches may cooperate to hire ministers trained in drama who would work in all the churches and provide help on local religious radio and television programs.

I must admit, however, that jobs are not numerous in this field, and I may have to take a job in general Christian education. But I intend to keep my interest in church drama and make use of it in whatever work I do. It offers an exciting opportunity-- a chance to return to an ancient method of Christian communication, as meaningful today as it was when the first Christian drama was enacted in the breaking of bread at the Lord's supper-- the drama which is still the highest criterion for dramatic expression within the church.

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Miss Frances Charrier is working in the Southeast Convention this summer in the Student Summer Service program, and was with us during the summer of 1952 also.

She will begin her senior year this fall at Union Theological Seminary in New York City, where she has been chairman of seminary committee on religious drama and is writing a cycle of prophet plays for her Bachelor of Divinity thesis.

During the summer of 1954 she worked in a theatre in Michigan gaining practical experience in drama, and last year Miss Charrier worked part-time at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Yonkers, N. Y., teaching a junior high week-day religious education class in church drama.